



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

419 Decatur Street
New Orleans LA 70130
504-589-3882 phone
www.nps.gov

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve News Release

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Contact: Kristy Wallisch, kristy_wallisch@nps.gov, 504-382-0296

Chalmette Battlefield To Commemorate Battle Of New Orleans Bicentennial In 2015

CHALMETTE, LA.: The National Park Service and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve will commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans in early January 2015. The battle, fought at what is now Chalmette Battlefield (part of Jean Lafitte NHP&P), occurred on January 8, 1815, and was the last major battle in the War of 1812. Hundreds of living history experts in period dress are expected to participate in activities, programs, and reenactments throughout the area during the week of the bicentennial. More information is available at 504-281-0510 or www.nps.gov/jela/battle-of-new-orleans-bicentennial.htm.

The National Park Service theme for the event will be “**Celebrating Unity**” and will highlight the unity

- Among the American troops, who represented a range of regions, races, languages, social classes, and religions
- Among the British troops, who were also a highly diverse force
- Between the United States and Britain, one-time enemies that have developed an unprecedented alliance

Chalmette Battlefield is currently hosting “**Battle of New Orleans University**” workshops and programs to inspire and involve the public, by providing historical background and sharing skills required by civilian and military life in the early 1800s, from history talks to knot-tying to sewing to rolling black powder cartridges.

During the bicentennial week, **major events at Chalmette Battlefield** will include

- **Commemoration Day on Thursday, January 8**, the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. Presented by the park, a morning ceremony will reflect the importance of the bicentennial as well as the many people and groups involved in the battle and its aftermath. Dignitaries and representatives of groups, organizations, service branches, etc. that participated in the battle are expected to attend and/or speak. Free admission.
- **School field trips on Friday, January 9**. Through self-guided tours, cannon and musket firings, and Battle of New Orleans University activities, the student experience will focus on the human side of the Battle of New Orleans: the men who fought on both sides, the civilians who supported their efforts, and the skills and teamwork required for military success and for everyday life in 1815. Field trip registration will be required and student participant numbers will be limited; registration information will be available in the fall. The public is also welcome to attend Friday events. Free admission.
- **Public events on Saturday, January 10**. Visitors will experience the historic events of 1815 through self-guided tours, cannon and musket firings, and a full roster of speakers, music, book signings, and other programs, including Battle of New Orleans University activities. A closing ceremony is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Free admission.

Reenactments, special exhibits, symposiums, and other events commemorating the Battle of New Orleans bicentennial are planned throughout south Louisiana by a variety of museums, government entities, and other organizations beginning in fall 2014.

Chalmette Battlefield is managed by the National Park Service as one of six sites of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The battlefield visitor center is open Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission to the site is free.

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